

The 5th Navigating Knowledge Landscapes' International Conference, September 20th, 2021.

Call for abstracts

Knowledge, transdisciplinarity and ethics.

The Navigating Knowledge Landscapes (NKL) network has engaged extensively in questions regarding health and biomedicine in the digital society: How does communication work and for whom? Which content do we find on-line, how is it distributed and perceived? What are the technological and legal frames for on-line activities? What are the potentials, risks and ethical challenges? These general questions have been elaborated through focused discussions and empirical examples contributing to a first description of health and bio-medicine in the digital society (Gajovic and Svalastog [ed.], 2018). The discussion on mapping digital society has been expanded to include non NKL-members through a Special Issue of the journal *Information Communication and Society (ICS)* (Webster, Svalastog and Allgaier [guest ed.], 2020). In parallel, a second anthology has been produced, developing multidisciplinary in-dept analysis on digital content, digital health platforms, information overload, communication and agency, ethical regulations and legislation in relation to health records and databases, biobanks as well as the autonomy of the individual (Svalastog, Gajovic and Webster, 2021). Describing and conceptualizing, as well as navigating health and bioethics and living in the digital society has been a key issue.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of workshops were organized during the spring of 2020, focusing on the usage of facial masks. The social, economic and cultural plurality of Europe was documented and analyzed. (Dataset 2020 and Martinelli et al., 2021) The workshops on the COVID-19 pandemic made knowledge a core focus of interest, as these webinars were driven by reports and follow-up questions on the present situation in different countries. What the webinars laid bare was the complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the importance of knowledge on social, economic, historical, cultural and institutional contexts, together with knowledge on medicine, technology, law and communication – to understand the situation posed upon societies by the pandemic, and thus to be able to contribute knowledge, perspectives and agency during the pandemic.

Drawing on these findings, the upcoming and 5th annual NKL conference in September 2021, will focus on *knowledge*. Knowledge is integral to health communication, health strategies, the basis for health analyses and the development of sound strategies to support health and to prevent disease. Knowledge is also integrated in power relations, and as such, it is often the product of governmentality. How is

knowledge developed during the COVID-19 pandemic? Which knowledge is developed and by whom? E.g. facial masks and vaccines; mental health in general as well as for particular groups; on-line and of-line (sexual) assaults and violence; agency and resistance; political discourses; collaboration; societal underpinnings; climate change; black lives matter/racism etc. How is knowledge organized by key stakeholders – researchers from different areas, NGOs, professionals, policymakers and politicians etc.?

Our aim is to better conceptualize knowledge in our discussions on health in the digital society. The NKL-project is multidisciplinary and thus emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach to health in the digital society. How do we achieve this? Which areas of knowledge are made relevant and combined, how and for which purpose? Knowledge and purpose is thus an analytical framework, with the intention to problematize the status of different areas of knowledge as separate or conflicting. In doing so, this conference seeks to investigate and describe transdisciplinary investigations and collaborations with concrete examples, and as something more and other than joint discussions.

This conference addresses particularly:

Information, communication, behavior, and politics during the COVID-19 pandemic

Technology, physicality, and embodiments during the COVID-19 pandemic

(False?) conflicts such as health/disease; virtual/real, online/offline; economy/health; young/vulnerable and elderly; citizens, students, patient, NGOs/policy makers, politicians, professionals, medical expertise; knowledge/fake news, ignorance; (medical) treatment/enhancement of human capacities.

Participants are also welcome to submit abstracts that cover other topics related to knowledge, transdisciplinarity and ethics.

The proceedings of this conference will be published on the NKL webpage: <http://knowledge-landscapes.hiim.hr/>

Location: Online

Invitation to publish full-length papers

Participants who submit abstracts will be invited to submit full-length manuscripts in the special issue of the journal *Družboslovne razprave* [Social Science Forum] (<https://www.druzboslovne-razprave.org/en/>). This journal is published three times per year, and is abstracted in, for example SCOPUS.

Deadline for submission of full-length manuscripts is in February, 2022.

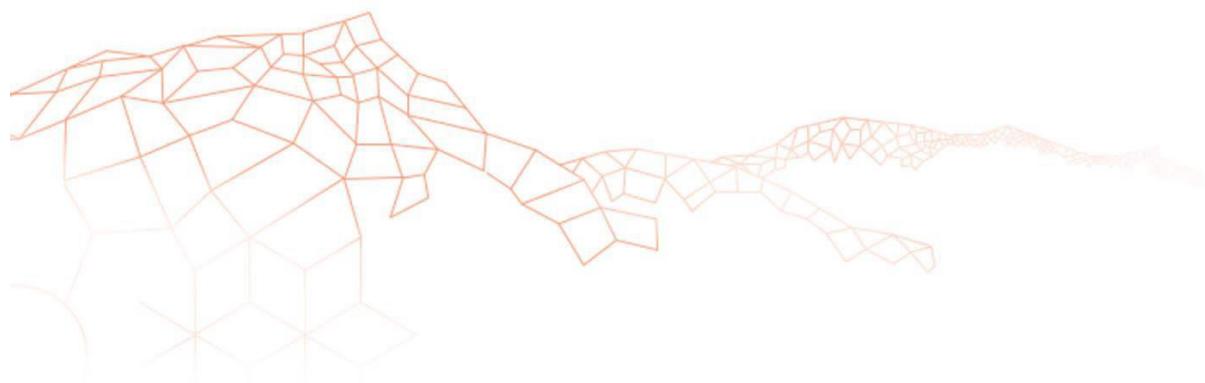
Accepted manuscripts will be published in the 2022 September issue of the journal *Družboslovne razprave* [Social Science Forum].

The NKL Network Meeting, September 21st, 2021

The meeting is dedicated to NKL Network members. For information about the NKL Network and list of members, please visit: <http://knowledge-landscapes.hiim.hr/>

To apply for membership, please send an e-mail to Anna Lydia Svalastog:
anna.lydia.svalastog@crb.uu.se

Location: Online



Practical information

The organizers:

Navigating Knowledge Landscapes Network

<http://knowledge-landscapes.hiim.hr/>

The Institution for Humanities and Social Sciences, Mid Sweden University, Östersund.

<https://www.miun.se>

Registrations, abstracts and deadlines:

There is no registration fee. There is no financial support to attend this event.

To register, send an e-mail to jennie.olofsson@miun.se

The deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is 2021-08-08. Please send the title and the abstract (max 250 words) to jennie.olofsson@miun.se

Upon registering, please let us know if you also intend to attend the NKL Network Meeting during the second day.

